

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
July 12, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** President Hardaway asked for a moment of silence for the fallen officers in Dallas, the two court bailiffs and the individuals that lost their lives.

Reverend Alesia Terrell, Chaplain Methodist Hospital gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

Mr. Guernsey performed the swearing in of the following Police Officers: **Samantha L. Jordan, Alexander Van Rite & Bradley S. Ervin.** The Town Council congratulated the officers.

On behalf of Town of Merrillville & residents, President Hardaway presented a plaque as Civilian Heroism Award to Glenda & Roger Townsend for their exemplary response as good Samaritans providing above and beyond life-saving actions.

The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for Salvatorian Fathers Polonia Pilgrimage. Chief Petruch stated that Commander Barron has security set up. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated July 12, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2016. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Spires provided an update regarding the paving project for the Town of Merrillville.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron met with the current insurance provider as well as various medical groups to discuss the option of being able to offer the Town of Merrillville employees some services at no cost. She is looking into the lowest bid for this type of benefit before making a decision.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

The Town received a Joint Interlocal & Mutual Aid Agreement for the Northwest Regional SWAT Team for consideration. Mr. Bushemi provided detailed information related to the agreement. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich stated that the rules & regulations park signs are in and she will be coordinating a date for installation with the Public Works department. Ms. Orlich said that Latin Satin Soul concert at Pruzin Park will be on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. Discussion followed regarding the clean-up at Kaiser Ditch. Ms. Orlich mentioned a need to set up a workshop and discuss the future of Jennings Park and Petruch Park. President Hardaway commented on the success of the parade and thanked those involved on an excellent job. Mrs. Barron mentioned setting up an employee appreciation event. President Hardaway said it would be discussed at a workshop in August.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report. Mr. Lake provided Stormwater updates related to various drainage improvement projects. He said that the first culvert was installed utilizing pipe made from 40% recyclable materials at 58<sup>th</sup> Pl & Vermont St. Mr. Lake said it would be nice to make the recycled pipe a standard. He believes this may have been one of the first recycled pipes installed in Northwest Indiana. A discussion took place regarding the access at 54<sup>th</sup> & 56<sup>th</sup> Ave which is owned by the County. Mr. Lake said he will discuss this matter with the County.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca thanked everyone involved for the participation at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. President Hardaway said National Night Out will take place on August 2, 2016. He encouraged the council to coordinate an event as a group at a central location. President Hardaway said that the Ward 2 - National Night Out will also take place on August 2, 2016 at Meadowland Park / 54th & Madison.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron said that the AHEPA Building D will be have a ceremony for the bench that was donated to them as a result of having contributed a large number of caps to the program. Mrs. Barron will inform the Council of the date once it has been established. She encouraged all Council members to attend the ceremony.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway had no report. Mr. Pettit said the used car lot property has been demolished and money has been designated for the development of that park. A discussion took place regarding the Old Mill property.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-20:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks Donation budget for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-16:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Donation fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-19:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to establish the Town of Merrillville as a Broadband Ready Community. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Some discussion followed. There was no public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 16-20:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget of the Town Court Probation Fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 16-21:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing temporary loans to fulfill monetary requirements necessary for debt service payments. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Hardaway expressed sincere condolences for the passing of Dorinda Gregor, Planning & Building Director. He stated that the Veterans Memorial is going to dedicate a bench and a brick in Ms. Gregor's honor.

Mr. Spires provided an update regarding the transfer of a parcel from MCD.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Executive Session following the Town Council meeting, July 12, 2016  
Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, July 15, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.  
Community Vigil on July 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Complex parking lot.  
Plan Commission meeting, July 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.  
Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, July 21, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.  
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, July 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, July 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Barron and seconded by Mr. Pettit.

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**Richard Hardaway, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**